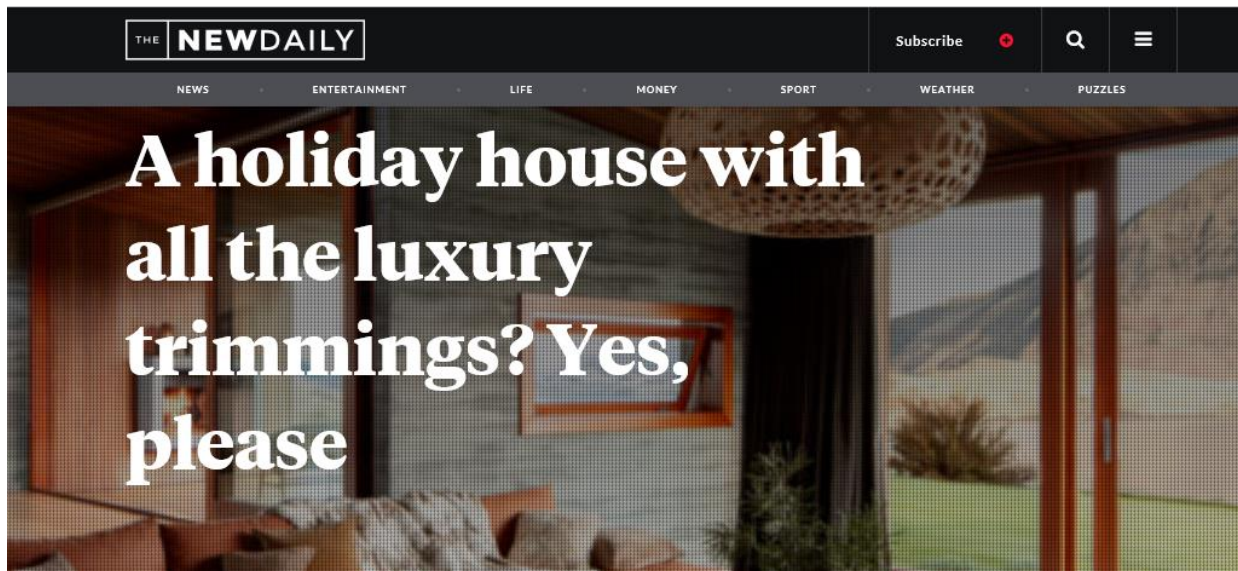


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Villa Saanti & Villa Belong Dua

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A holiday house with all the luxury trimmings? Yes, please

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By : Margaret Barca

The luxury holiday rental market continues to spiral ever more upmarket – we’re talking five-star standards (maybe six-star?), 24/7 concierges and potentially stratospheric costs.

Rental behemoth Airbnb is far from the first to chase this market, recently tapping into the ongoing boom with Airbnb Luxe.

Its worldwide options offer a rigorously selected range of extraordinary homes from city penthouses to French chateaux. Residences must be “entirely unique and appropriate to their destination” and meet a 300-plus criteria checklist.

An Airbnb trip designer will help you choose just the right property. Once they understand “your vision”, they can also help to plan “a magical travel experience”.

Whether you’ve got the cash to splash, or you’d just like to see how the other half vacations, there are some amazing places to while away a holiday.

One of the hero properties in the Luxe launch is the ultra-modern [Lodge at the Hills](#), in Arrowtown, in southern New Zealand. At about \$33,000 a night, it’s not for those seeking a low-cost getaway.

On the other hand it does sleep 10, offers a fully staffed compound, infinity pool, heli-landing pad, private three-par golf hole and sprawls across 20 hectares. Not to mention the genuinely breathtaking scenery and easy ski-field access.

Lodge at the Hills is also available through Kiwi luxury rental agency [Touch of Spice](#), which has established itself with some of New Zealand's most fabulous properties, as well as listings in Australia and the South Pacific.



All the little extras

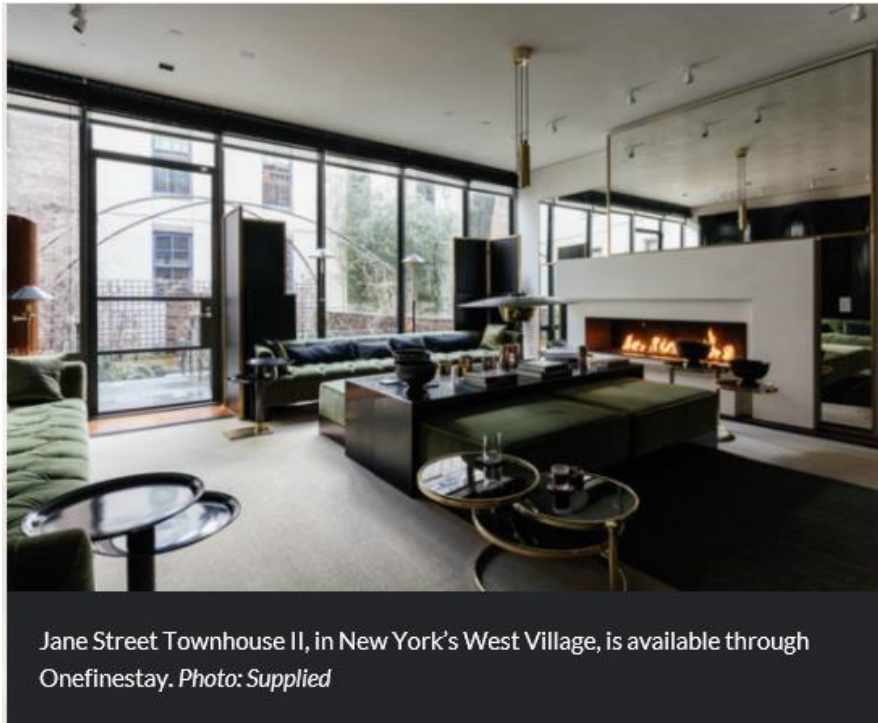
Touch of Spice has set benchmarks for service too, because these rentals are about more than just the property. It's the highly personalised, your-wish-is-our command service that goes with these prices. Helicopter from airport to property? Live-in chef? Turndown service? Bespoke adventure or cultural itinerary? Your personal concierge can and will arrange virtually anything.

Alexandra Omerod, co-founder and chief executive of [Luxico](#), another luxury rental agency, says it's also about time.

“The biggest luxury in life is time, and by us handling all the finer details for them, they can spend their time enjoying their stay.”

Luxico bills itself as the ‘Home Hotel’, offering unique homes fitted out with high-end amenities and a personal concierge on call 24/7. People want service.

[Onefinestay](#) is another upmarket agency with a curated selection of the finest homes and villas around the globe – some are truly breathtaking – and “unprecedented service”.



Who books these luxury stays?

It's not all sports stars, billionaire tech nerds and VIPs travelling with an entourage.

“We're noticing a huge growth in multigenerational travel and groups of friends and families booking private villas for get-togethers and celebrations, rather than hotels,” Touch of Spice managing director Jacqui Spice says.

If you're planning a luxe getaway, or a just a little armchair travel, here are a few suggestions. Dream away.

Villa Saanti Phuket

This fabulous six-bedroom villa on Natai Beach is about an hour from Phuket – and a world away, as they say. Contemporary oriental design with two-storey pavilions overlooking pristine infinity pools and garden. A manager, housekeeper, private chef and gardener cater to your needs.

Cost: From \$1850 a night



Paradise (not) in Phuket: Villa Saanti. Photo: Supplied

Villa Belong Dua

A two-bedroom villa in a secluded coastal retreat, far from Bali's madding crowd. Walled garden, open-air pavilions, four-poster beds and a dreamy tropical pool.

Cost: From \$550 a night



The living room – yes, really – at Villa Belong Dua. Photo: Supplied

Link : <https://thenewdaily.com.au/life/travel/2019/08/09/luxury-holiday-rentals/>